

Equity's \$93,300 to Back Theater for Productions

Forty-eighth Street Leased for
a Year on Pledges of
Forty Players.

Following a meeting of forty actors and actresses at the Ambassador Hotel yesterday, at which a guarantor committee composed of well known theatrical stars pledged \$93,300 as financial backing, the Actors Equity Association announced that its long cherished ambition of an actors theatre is about to be realized.

A year's lease, from August 1 next, on the Forty-eighth Street Theater was signed during the afternoon by representatives of the Equity. It also was announced that Equity will stage at least five productions of an artistic nature, besides inaugurating "Equity Festival Week" when at the culmination of the season a different bill will be presented at every performance comprising examples of the better and lesser known plays of Shakespeare, of ancient and modern dramatists and of the best examples of every type of theatrical work.

The organization will be known as "Equity Players, Inc."

Equity funds are not involved in the project, since the guarantor committee's fund will assure the success of the venture, it was announced. The guarantors' committee will be open not only to Equity members but to those interested in the theater throughout the country. In addition, a large group of subscribers for seats—not to be confused with the guarantors' committee—will be organized from those interested in the movement. Each subscriber will be entitled to special seats for the series of plays.

No opposition to the regular theatrical management is intended, according to Frank Gilmore, executive secretary of the Equity, who explained that the project "is rather intended to be of assistance to them by increasing the output of plays and the movement of theatergoers."

"First," he pointed out, "the project may secure plays of proven success without assuming the dead lift of initial production, as Equity Players, Inc., will only maintain each production two weeks and then, if the play succeeds, pass it on to a regular manager; second, new ideas and methods will be tried out, the results of which managers may use in producing their own plays; third, and most important, the project is intended to stimulate theatergoing and to increase the number of those interested in the stage."

Equity's president emeritus of the Equity, will be president of Equity Players, Inc. The season will open on October 15, the casts will be varied according to requirements and a group of experts in all branches of production will be asked to serve in an advisory capacity.

"The Equity approaches its task humbly but with a will to win," said Mr. Gilmore, who presided yesterday. "The motto assumed by Equity Players, Inc., is 'to all the glory of the theater,' according to Mr. Gilmore's statement, which in part follows:

"In the 'Equity Players, Inc.' the Actors Equity Association launches an enterprise that will, we believe, tend to increase audiences for the better class plays. The average theatrical manager of today is perhaps forced to handle his enterprises on a purely commercial basis, his own taste and preferences being subordinated to what he believes is safe investment."

"In view of the enthusiasm with which the project has been greeted a ruling has been made whereby subscriptions for seats will be placed in the order with which they are received."

The guarantor committee will be composed of those who wish to stand behind Equity Players, Inc., and advance sufficient funds to finance the initial production plans. These guarantors will be reimbursed from the first profits of the corporation.

Among those who underwrote the fund at yesterday's meeting were Lillian Albertson, George Arliss, Lionel Atwill, Constance Binney, Roland Bottemley, Vera Bloom, Marshall Broomfield, Albert Bruns, Alexander Carlisle, Joseph Cawthorn, Lyster Chambers, Charles Cherry, Jane Cowell, Augustin Duncan, Dorothy Donnelly, Wallace Edinger, Gilbert Emery, Katharine Emmet, William Farnum, Elsie Ferguson, Frank Gilmore, Ferdinand Gottschalk, Louise Closser Hale, Alice Harker, Harcourt, Jack Hazard, Alfred Hickman, De Wolf Hopper, O. P. Heggie, Daisy Humphreys, Harrison Hunter, Violet Heming, Doris Keane, Margaret Lawrence, Edith Wynne Matson, Elton MacKellar, Grant Mitchell, May Naudain, Nance O'Neill, James T. Powers, Florence Reed, Grant Stewart, Henry Stephenson, Effie Shannon, Genevieve Tobin, Paul N. Turner, Brandon Tynan, John Westley and Malcolm Williams.

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CARROLL FAMILY ESTRANGED BY SON'S MARRYING ACTRESS

Wedding So Soon After His
Divorce, Objected To by
Bridegroom's Parents.

That Mrs. Bradish Johnson Carroll, Jr., whose marriage to a member of a well known New York family in Jersey City last Saturday came as a surprise, was formerly a member of the "Ziegfeld Follies," was one of yesterday's developments in their romance. Because of the secret marriage of Mr. Carroll so soon after his divorce from Mrs. Mary Eunice Clapp Carroll in White Plains April 16 his family was highly displeased.

Mr. Carroll was quoted yesterday as saying he had talked with his family over the telephone Monday and had informed them of his marriage to the former actress. "But they already had heard about it," he said. "They were angry because I had not told them before of my intention to marry. Their chief objection was based upon the fact that I had only recently been divorced and not because my wife had been in the 'Follies' for a year. My family thought my marriage came too soon after my divorce."

Mr. Carroll, Sr., is reported as saying: "We do not have anything against our son's wife. We know nothing of her antecedents. I have not disapproved of her. We have been estranged simply because he married without the consent of Mrs. Carroll and myself."

Mr. and Mrs. Carroll, Jr., are stopping at present with the parents of the bride at 415 Madison avenue, but declined to be seen yesterday. She was formerly Miss Gladys E. Zieman. Her mother, Mrs. Edward Zieman, denied that Mr. and Mrs. Carroll, Sr., had disowned their son on account of his recent marriage. Mrs. Zieman said that her daughter had met Mr. Carroll at a dinner given a year ago at the house of a mutual friend and that the acquaintance had been kept up. At that time she stated Mr. Carroll was separated from his first wife, although there was no divorce.

Mr. and Mrs. Zieman and their daughter, came to New York from Baltimore, nine years ago. The latter was educated there, and three years ago had a brief career on the stage. In the 1913 production of the "Ziegfeld Follies" she was a show girl, and she also played on the Century Theater roof when it was conducted by Florenz Ziegfeld, Jr.

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Mr. William S. Fairchild, of this city, who was reported to have been a witness at the marriage, said yesterday that he was not present. He said that he and his wife who was Miss Cornelia de Lancey Cammann, are great friends of the first Mr. Carroll who obtained a divorce.

"RED PEPPER" COMING IN.

Lee and J. J. Shubert announced yesterday that they will present McIntyre and Heath in their latest spectacular musical comedy, "Red Pepper," at the Shubert Theater next Monday evening.

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But the father still squabbled. They are even at it a year later when the presents for the children are laid out around the Christmas tree without the suspicion in the mind of either Catholic or Jewish grandfather that there are twins.

The tree is not the only symbol of the bride's faith for the bridegroom which served as the backdrop of the first two acts.

Of course there was very little risk about all this. On the variety stage Jews and Catholics have been slung, and one another for the last decade it is moderately sure fire with the single danger that it may offend taste. Since everything in "Abie's Irish Rose" offends taste of one kind or another—perhaps every kind indeed but bad taste—the playwright took no chances.

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